

**CURRICULUM DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 2, 2008  
JORDAN AUXILIARY**

**WELCOME**

*Lynne welcomed all to the meeting. She voiced a special thanks to both Gary Tingey (Jordan District) and Tom Sutton for their work in making this meeting available by Interactive Video Conference (IVC).*

*The October Curriculum Directors' meeting focused on Singapore Math. This program is considered to be cutting edge both for our state and our nation as a whole. This was presented at the first Curriculum Directors' meeting so that district leaders, and others, could become well-informed about this math program.*

*The meeting today will focus on English Language Learners. This population continues to grow within our state's borders. There will be a federal audit in April for Title I and Title III programs. Utah has not been as pro-active as it should have been. Every person should know Utah's ELL mission, model, and direction when it comes to ELL instruction. To that end, USOE sponsored four days of ELL training by national presenters.*

- *Day 1 (Dec. 1) was conducted for ASL directors who had training in June.*
- *Day 2 (Dec. 2) is for curriculum directors.*
- *Day 3 (Dec. 3) will be held for ASL directors who were not previously trained.*
- *Day 4 (Dec. 4) will consist of school principals.*

*Lynne has also reorganized the Curriculum and Instruction Specialist Staff so that we now have a team, with Dr. Brenda Burrell as the lead, whose focus is to close the achievement gap for minority groups.*

*Brenda Burrell introduced Kathleen Leos and Lisa Saavedra.*

*Kathleen Leos served as Director of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of English Language Acquisition. She was also a principal advisor to the Secretary of Education on the No Child Left Behind Act, Title III Policy. Kathleen is currently the President of Language and Literacy Development.*

*Lisa Saavedra is the current Vice President of Language and Literacy Development. She has 25 years experience in ELL instruction including time as the Bureau Chief for the Florida Department of Education.*

*Please see power point.*

**CONTINUATION AFTER LUNCH**

**1. Proposed Secondary Math Endorsement Changes (Diana Suddreth)**

*The Math Core was rewritten several years ago. It is appropriate at this time to revisit and revise the Math Endorsement. There are several proposed changes which could have a big impact on those pursuing endorsements as well as those who already have an endorsement. Please review these carefully and talk with your districts. E-mail comments to both Lynne Greenwood ([lynnegreenwood@schools.utah.gov](mailto:lynnegreenwood@schools.utah.gov)) and Diana Suddreth ([diana.suddreth@schools.utah.gov](mailto:diana.suddreth@schools.utah.gov)). Lynne stated endorsement changes will not be made without agreement between the USOE and districts/charter schools.*

*Diana is also working towards a commonality in endorsement classes across Utah's higher education institutions.*

**2. Update on Proposed Core Academy 2009 (Gerolynn Hargrove)**

*The Core Academy is an integral part of professional development for many districts. Several committee meetings have been held to discuss the 2009 session of the Core Academy. The Curriculum and Instruction section has been dealt several budget cuts and is in the midst of preparing yet another one. Given the state of the economy, it is felt that the Core Academy cannot continue to be funded at the current rate. Going forward, a design committee and steering committee will meet to fashion this year's Academy and maintain the integrity and substance that has always been a part of this event. A few of the proposals include:*

- *Materials ordering: can print online with option to print all sessions.*
- *Grade-level and vertical alignment.*
- *Who should attend at district's discretion.*
- *Continue to be a three-day event.*

- Content driven.
- Provide lunch only and not all the other breaks and etc.
- Reduce locations from current 17 to nine.
- 5-month time frame beginning in January for the next Core Academy rather than a full-time position.
- Anticipate further budget cuts as a result of 2009 legislative session.
- Hope to accommodate 2000 teachers.
- Need for monitoring, oversight, retain quality, pre- and post-tests over time.

### 3. 2009 Legislation (Lynne Greenwood)

*Lynne referred to several handouts:*

- **Singapore Math:** Math Education Initiative 2009FL-0289/007  
*“This bill creates a program that awards grants to school districts and charter schools that offer Singapore math in grades kindergarten through 8 and meet other math curriculum requirements.”*  
*USOE would recommend a pilot program given the cost and current economy.*
- **Teacher Quality Amendments:** 2009FL-0426/006  
*“This bill creates a program to pilot the development and implementation of performance-based compensation plans for elementary school teachers and modifies reporting requirements for certain student achievement tests.”*
- **Student-Centric Learning Centers:** 2009FL-0290/003  
*“This bill provides for the establishment of student-centric learning centers.”*  
*This allows for the student to assemble their own courses. USOE would be concerned with online courses that are high-stakes for all students, (i.e. math, science, and etc.) without a teacher actively involved.*

### 4. Review of Singapore Math Materials (Lynne Greenwood)

*The Great Source review was not ready for the last IMC review. Singapore Math will not align with the core at grade level, but will as a total program over multiple grade levels. Reviews will continue.*

### 5. Title II Findings and Title III Audit Preparation (Lynne Greenwood)

#### **Possibility of Consolidated Monitoring**

*Lynne stated that private schools are to have access, on a ratio scale where federal programs are concerned.*

*USOE will continue to monitor for Title III. Monies are to be used for highly-qualified teachers and professional development.*

*It may be a future possibility that Title I, Title II, and Title III programs will be monitored on a consolidated basis.*

### 6. Closing the Gap (Brenda Burrell)

*Brenda referred to “English Language Learner Proficiency Standards” as a framework, not a stand-alone document. Participants should make this document their own. Curriculum is merely a component to closing the achievement gap. Where do we start? USOE is here to help, but it will take all, in concert, to make progress toward minority achievement. Achievement should be for all students, in every classroom, in every district, throughout the state. One should not be able to walk into a classroom, and because of the distribution of students, be able to tell that it is an AP class vs. an elementary class in the same content area.*

### 6. Literacy Gap Analysis (Reed Spencer)

*Reed handed out a spreadsheet showing the percentage of proficient students, by district, from 2007-08 AYP reports for grades 3-8. This information was gathered as part of another project. It was discussed for informational purposes highlighting the gap for student groups including Cau-Asian, Cau-AfAm, Cau-Amind, Cau-His, Cau-PacIsl, Whole-ED, Whole-LEP, and Whole-SWD.*

*As an example, there is a consistent 29-point achievement gap between American Indian students and Caucasians. Educators need to have a common conversation about how they are closing this gap. It should be an explicitly asked question. What is useful in instruction? What best-practices are being used?*

### 7. Math Gap Analysis (Lynne Greenwood)

*Lynne referenced a spreadsheet with respect to math achievement. This set of sheets covered the gap analysis for grades 2-6, 7-8, and 9-12 for Cau-AfAm, Cau-Amind, Cau-Asian, Cau-Hispanic, and Cau-PacIs. It was further*

*broken out for Not EconDis-EconDisadv, Not ELL-ELL, and Not SWD-SWD. Lynne stated that if we hope to improve student achievement, we must address the achievement gap.*

#### **8. Update on Concurrent & High Ability Program (Moya Kessig)**

*The Concurrent Enrollment Programs have grown from the 11,000 enrolled students in 1995 to over 28,000 students in 2007. 191,000 semester credits have been given. 34,000 students have participated through online classes while 157,000 students have had face-to-face instruction. 53% of the participants are female but this group also has a lower completion rate.*

*The High Ability Student Initiative Program is proceeding. Selected sites include Box Elder, Cache, Park City, Tooele, and Washington. Technology components have been ordered and site visits scheduled. Target dates are:*

- Dec 15 Hire coaches.*
- Dec Deliver equipment to school and training.*
- Jan 5 Set up website.*

#### **9. World Language Update (Gregg Roberts)**

*Gregg said that Utah now has 74 secondary schools who are teaching Chinese. This accounts for 3000+ students. Because of these numbers, Utah and the program are receiving national attention.*

*There are also 10 schools teaching Arabic to 199 students which ranks Utah among the top 5 states in the US. Professional development will be offered this summer.*

#### **10. Math Ready Steering Committee (Lynne Greenwood)**

*Key individuals in business fields and education have been brought together to discuss the math needs for Utah's students. What is needed to make students' math ready in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? What new courses could be offered to meet these needs? Meetings and discussion will continue into 2009.*

#### **11. Other**

- Lois Richins, interim Elementary Math Specialist said the MSP (Math/Science Partnership) grant should continue this year. Applications can be accessed online. The focus could be either Math or Science with priority given to those whose objective is aimed at closing the achievement gap. This is data-driven over a 3-year period. Must have accountability and be sustainable.*
- The "MY Access!" online writing program was totally funded from the Superintendent's discretionary funds and minor funding from PD funds from our section. With the recent and anticipated ongoing budget cuts, districts/charter schools should plan to provide MY Access! funding from their local sources, unless USOE budget cuts are less than anticipated.*
- Funding for approved grants will be distributed to applicant's in 1/7<sup>th</sup> increments. Again, this is due to recent budget cuts.*
- USTAR: RFP's have been reviewed. We are currently waiting for a Best & Final offer.*
- ELL Family Literacy Center funding and ELL software implementations are proceeding. Local districts and charter schools should have information this week per Gerolynn Hargrove and Brenda Burrell.*

**Next Meeting: February 18, 2009**

**USOE Board Room**

**Polycom will be available**